

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CPR-01 SSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /038 W

----- 022794

R 181243Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1249

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 9167

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, NI, UN

SUBJECT: NEW NIGERIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO UN

1. NIGERIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER GARBA ANNOUNCED SEPTEMBER 17 APPOINTMENT OF LESLIE ORISEWEYINMI HARRIMAN AS NEW NIGERIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO UN, REPLACING EDWIN OGBU, WHO WAS RECENTLY RETIRED (LAGOS 8028 NOTAL).

2. HERRIMAN WAS UNTIL THIS APPOINTMENT NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE. BORN 1930 AT WARRI, MID WESTERN STATE, HARRIMAN WAS EDUCATED UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN, PEMBROKE COLLEGE, OXFORD AND IMPERIAL DEFENCE COLLEGE, LONDON. HE WAS MANAGER OF UNILEVER, LAGOS, 1955-58; SECOND SECRETARY, BRITISH EMBASSY, SPAIN, 1958-59; COUNSELOR AND ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR NIGERIA IN GHANA, 1961-63; DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY, MEA, 1965-66; HIGH COMMISSIONER TO UGANDA 1966-69; AND TO KENYA 1966-70. HE WAS APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE APRIL 1970.

3. HARRIMAN IS ONE OF NIGERIA'S BEST CONNECTED SENIOR DIPLOMATS. HIS CONFIDANTS IN OLD ADMINISTRATION INCLUDED SOME WHO ARE NOW DESCREDITED, BUT ALSO OTHERS WHO ARE NOW AT THE CENTER OF POWER E.G. INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE M. D. YUSUFU. HARRIMAN IS ALSO WELL CONNECTED WITH NIGERIAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY THROUGH HIS BROTHER, PROPERTY DEVELOPER HOPE HARRIMAN. HARRIMAN'S RELATIONS WITH HIS PROFESSIONAL COLLEAGUES SEEM GOOD. HE AND
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FORMER MEA PERMSEC JOE IYALLA DETESTED EACH OTHER, BUT NOW THAT

IYALLA HAS DEPARTED AMIDST GENERAL REJOICING HARRIMAN'S RECORD AS ONE OF HIS CHIEF ENEMIES SHOULD SERVE AS VALUABLE CREDENTIAL. WITH NEW LEADERSHIP MEA.

4. HARRIMAN IS EXTREMELY GREGARIOUS WITH FONDNESS FOR GOOD FOOD AND DRINK. HE HAS TENDENCY DRINK TO EXCESS, BUT HOLDS HIS LIQUOR WELL. HE HAS REPUTATION AS DEMANDING BOSS AND SOME TIMES PRICKLY OPPOSITE NUMBER IN DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS. NEVERTHELESS, HE IS QUITE OPEN WITH INDIVIDUALS HE FEELS HE CAN TRUST ON A PERSONAL BASIS.

5. GARBA'S ANNOUNCEMENT GAVE NO INDICATION DATE HARRIMAN'S ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK.

6. ANY INFORMATION PARIS MAY HAVE REGARDING HARRIMAN'S WIFE, CHILDREN, IF ANY, WOULD BE WELCOMED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LAGOS09167
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750324-0425
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750940/aaaabjhl.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW NIGERIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO UN
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, NI, UN, (HARRIMAN, ORISEWEYINMI LESLIE)
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006